

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th July 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

'THE *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 11th July, in reviewing the present situation in Tibet, writes as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 11th, 1904.

The fate of Tibet.

Our impression is that the behaviour of the mighty English Government has shaken the inoffensive Lamas out of their senses. Their innocent subjects are dying like swarms of flies before the fire of the English gun; telegraph lines are being carried into the heart of their country; the native Tibetans are dislodged by force from forts, villages and towns, and the whole country is resounding with the tramp of the English lion. The contemplation of all this must undoubtedly have inspired abject terror in the mind of the Dalai Lama. The line of thought pursued by the Tibetans is probably something like this:—"Of what offence are we guilty before the English? We have no intercourse with them; we fear the very touch of their civilisation; why should they not let us alone?" It was probably thoughts like these that led the representatives of the Dalai Lama to try to convince Colonel Younghusband of the bad faith of the British Government.

Alas, you fool of a Dalai Lama, do you not know that it is this desire to be aloof from contact with the outside world that is your worst enemy? If you had been on friendly relations with your English neighbours, if you had permitted English merchants to trade and English missionaries to preach all over your dominions, if you had looked up to the English as your protectors in prosperity as in adversity, then you would have been spared this confounding sight of the open jaw of the British lion, eager to devour you. What matters your wishing to keep aloof? The civilised English will not tolerate your uncivilised ways. The days of your happy repose are over: the thunders of the English cannon will soon awake you to consciousness. What can help you now? Unless you fall at the feet of the English and beg their mercy there is no hope for you. At the darbar at Gyangtse Colonel Younghusband distinctly said as much.

Lord Curzon once said that an English Resident would have to be appointed at Lhasa. According to the Secretary of State, the object of the mission is to settle the questions affecting the trade of the two countries and to get compensation for the losses sustained in this expedition; no part of Tibet is to be permanently occupied. It is difficult to say how far these professions will be carried out into actual practice. Already the cry is raised that the Tibetans are faithless. It is being stated that it was they who fired the first shot in this war. The people who unlawfully enter their country with an armed force and prepare to make prisoners of their soldiers are to be held guiltless. And those who, to defend their native land, oppose the progress of the English soldiers, must be regarded as enemies, as a faithless people, whose offence is unpardonable. This is an old story which we have heard many times over. What we are eager to hear on the present occasion is what punishment is to be meted out to the Tibetans for their enmity and treachery and for their opposing this lawful entrance of the English into their country.

No man with ordinary foresight doubts that even if Tibet is not annexed to India outright, its independence will be practically gone. The weak will obey the strong, the uncivilised will be the meanest of slaves to the civilised: this is the just rule of the civilised world. Why should there be an exception made in the case of Tibet?

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 25th June is sorry that a number of cases of loot, theft, and outrage of female modesty occurred in the Rajgir fair in Bihar in consequence of the insufficiency of the local police force. It is also reported that there occurred some fatal accidents in the fair.

AL PUNCH,
June 25th, 1904.

Crime and accidents in the
Rajgir fair in Bihar.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 5th, 1904.

3. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th July says that reports of frequent thefts in Amlitolla and Megharbari, in the Jamalpur subdivision of the Mymensingh district, published in that paper recently, brought several Sub-Inspectors of Police to Amlitolla. Some suspicious characters have been sent up under section 110. Some more suspected persons have absconded. The police officers have shown commendable zeal in their work. The result of the trial of the persons sent up is being anxiously watched. A police outpost should be established at Amlitolla, where the oppressions of the *budmashes* have become intolerable.

SANJIVANI,
July 7th, 1904.

4. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th July writes that thefts have abnormally increased in Kushtia town. The police seem quite indifferent.

JYOTI,
July 30th, 1904.

5. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th July reports a case which occurred on the 30th June last in mauza Karankhain. It appears that two cattle were missed by a farmer one evening. Next morning the animals were found on the side of the nearest tank with the flesh intact, but the skin completely peeled off. This revolting crime has created quite a horror in the village. The poor villager has been compelled to stop his agricultural operations, as these two animals formed his only livestock. The police refused to take up the case. It is supposed that it was for the sake of the hides that the crime was committed. The Magistrate is appealed to for redress. A number of people are cited as witnesses of the occurrence.

HITAVADI,
July 8th, 1904.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th July gives a case which throws considerable light on the methods of the police. In February 1902 last, a dacoity was committed in the house of the son of the Maharaja of Keonjhar in Cuttack town. The police sent up some persons for trial, and four of these got rigorous imprisonment for life. The popular belief, however, remained that the real culprits were still at large, and the belief recently gained confirmation from a lucky accident. It appears that Mr. Knyvett, the acting Inspector-General of Police, obtained information that a gang of dacoits was committing depredations in various parts of Bengal; and inquiry showed that they were responsible for the Cuttack dacoity also. Mr. Knyvett immediately made further inquiries at Cuttack with the help of a Deputy Magistrate. This convinced him of the complete innocence of the four persons sentenced to transportation. The Lieutenant-Governor ordered the immediate release of these unfortunate fellows, but as one of them had been hanged for murder, only the other three got the benefit of this tardy reparation. The police officers concerned were all transferred to Noakhali Chittagong and other places.

After stating the facts as above, the paper continues :—

We do not consider these transfers a sufficient punishment for the police officers concerned. The magnitude of the punishment should have been commensurate with the enormity of the offence. We wish also to know what Government has done to recompense these victims of police oppression. The man who was sentenced to death for murder might have got a lighter punishment if he had not been held guilty of dacoity also. After this exhibition of incompetence it becomes a subject for consideration whether the police are fit to be entrusted with the keeping of the public peace. We trust the authorities will consider all these points.

SAMAY,
July 8th, 1904.

7. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 8th July makes the following remarks on the question of police reform :—

Police reform.

When the Police Commission was appointed by Lord Curzon we hoped that the work of real reform in that department would soon begin. But the actual results have simply amazed us. Just the reverse of what we wished and expected has happened. We now see clearly that whatever may have been the ostensible object of the appointment of the Commission, its real object was to make provision for the introduction of a larger number of Eurasians and Europeans into the police force. Lord Curzon by thus showing favour to his own race has laid a claim to their blessings. But if the truth is to be told, Indians for all time to come will mention his name only with curses and not with blessings.

Henceforth natives are not to be eligible for the post of District Superintendent. There is not the least doubt that when the one or two natives who now hold that rank retire from the service, their place will be taken by raw imported Europeans. Natives have equally small chances of getting the post of Assistant Superintendent. The only posts that remain open to them therefore will be the Inspectorships and the Sub-Inspectorships. But a very small number only of these fall vacant every year. Thus it appears that on all sides the openings for us to earn our bread are getting narrower and narrower. It appears that even in the lowest rank of the police—the constabulary—the Bengalis are being gradually ousted by up-country men. An increasing number of these people is being constantly driven by the stress of famine to seek their livelihood in Lower Bengal, and it seems probable that it will soon become difficult for Bengalis proper to get even a constabulary or a *chaukidari*. But may we enquire if Government benefits by the change by getting work better done than before?

It is a matter of notoriety how little claim the Hindustanis have to be called clever or intelligent or educated or versed in the work of investigation. Of course it is not claimed that they are devoid of all virtues. Nobody can deny that as carriers of burden they are superior to all other people. And yet it is people like these to whom our rulers entrust the duty of keeping the public peace. These people are seriously handicapped in several ways: In the first place, they are inferior to the Bengalis in mental calibre. In addition, they are ignorant of the habits and the language of the Bengalis. And their natural obtuseness is such that they cannot quickly make up for their deficiencies in the latter respects. And still we find that the whole country is being overrun by these up-country constables. Is not this a matter for serious reproach?

It is our firm conviction that the employment of local men as *chaukidars* and constables will get the work done with an ease and smoothness which can never exist where outsiders of a different nationality and specially up-country men are appointed.

Bengalis claim to be more imbued with the light of learning than the other Indian races, and Government admits the truth of this without demur. Of course it is not suggested that Bengalis should man the police all over India. But if natives of each province were employed in larger numbers to man the local police, better results might be obtained than now. Will the Government give the suggestion a trial?

8. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th July says that the Calcutta police in arresting the rain gamblers at Barabazar, on the 5th July last, arrested some innocent people who were merely looking on while the arrests were being made.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
July 11th, 1904.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

9. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 25th June is sorry that Maulvi Zahirud-din, Public Prosecutor of the Magistrate's Court, Patna, being dead, one Babu Benode Behari Majumdar has temporarily been appointed in his place, although there were more competent candidates for the post. The new appointment has displeased many practitioners of the local Bar. The Magistrate of Patna ought to reconsider the matter.

AL PUNCH,
June 25th, 1904.

10. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 29th June is sorry to hear that a proposal is under consideration to transfer the thana of Gadkhali from the sadar to the Bongong subdivision, and make the second Munsifi at the latter place permanent. It is stated that this will cause great inconvenience to the local public. The reason is that the thana in question is situated on the bank of the river Kabodak, and communication with Jessore is easier than it would be with Bongong *via* Jhickergacha.

JASOHAR,
June 29th, 1904.

11. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 6th July says that so long defaulters in mutation cases in the Midnapore district used to be punished with fines under section 42 of Act VII of 1876 (B. C). But now it has been ruled that in future they will be liable to criminal prosecution. This will, no doubt, greatly expedite mutation work in the district, but it will, at the same time, greatly increase the expenses

MEDINI BANDHAV,
June 6th, 1904.

Arrest of innocent people by the Calcutta police.

Proposed transfer of Gadkhali thana in the Jessore district.

Criminal prosecution in connection with mutation work in the Midnapore district.

and aggravate the hardship of the people. One of the effects of the law of property and inheritance in this country is to render frequent mutation of names necessary. Government should enquire as to what is the real cause of people making delays in having their names registered in the Mutation Office.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
July 6th, 1904.

12. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th July says that Mr. Askandar Ali, a Deputy Magistrate of Pabna, holds his Court till 9 o'clock at night. As an instance of the inconvenience which this causes to suitors, it is stated that a single *chirag* is all the light available for the whole Court-room. These late sittings do no good to anybody, while they cause great inconvenience to pleaders, suitors and the amla alike.

13. The same paper says:—
Mr. Heard, the Subdivisional Officer of Kishenganj in Purnea, is applying to that place rules and procedure which are in force in the Sonthal Parganas, the place where he formerly served.

For instance, a mukhtar has to get his permission every time he has to conduct a case, and more than one mukhtar are not allowed to represent one party in a suit. The Sonthal Parganas was the place that suited Mr. Heard. Why was he brought over to Kishenganj?

JYOTI,
July 7th, 1904.

14. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th July in announcing the departure of Mr. Ransome, the District Judge on long furlough, remarks:—

Coolness, love of justice, independence and impartiality are the first essentials of a good Judge. Mr. Ransome, when he first came to this district about the latter part of 1900, displayed all these qualities and consequently won the regard and praise of the public. But latterly a great change came over him. He began occasionally to display signs of eccentricity.

By the issue of some unlawful circulars he interfered with the independence of the Munsifs and Sub-Judges under him. And he grew unmindful of his judicial responsibilities. We do not know what sort of rebuke he got from the authorities after the remarks made on him by Mr. Justice Pargiter in his inspection report. But for some time after that inspection he made a great effort to clear off the arrears of his file by dismissing any number of cases. This caused quite a dismay amongst suitors and pleaders alike. It was thus that he came to lose the public confidence. In our opinion, the higher authorities are partly responsible for this. The authorities should have transferred him when his own health broke down, and when his wife, for the sake of her health, left him for a more healthy place.

KHULNA,
June 7th, 1904.

15. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 7th July says that serious charges are being made against Babu Kailas Chandra Chatterjee, the Sub-Deputy Collector of Bagerhat. Placards (anonymous) have been posted up at different places, which profess to show an easier method of securing an acquittal than the expensive one of entering on a regular defence with the aid of pleaders and mukhtars. If the facts alleged in the placards are correct, then it must be said that quite a state of anarchy prevails at Bagerhat. If, on the other hand, it is incorrect in the least particular, the offender should be properly brought to book. It is not known if the Sub-Deputy is aware of the existence of these things. If he is, one cannot conceive why he takes no steps to vindicate himself.

The majority of the local public are glad at the transfer of Babu Kalidas Mukerjee, the Subdivisional Officer of Bagerhat. The cases of oppression and failure of justice which have occurred during his *regime* are numberless. Some of his favourites got up a farewell party in his honour at the Mukhtars' Library. The local pleaders and amla were invited, but most of them had to come away without tasting any of the refreshments provided. One well-known gentleman was requested by Kalidas Babu's supporters to make a speech on behalf of their patron, but replied that as he knew nothing in Kalidas Babu's favour he could not pay false compliments to him. Some other gentlemen were then requested to speak, but none of them complied. This shows what sort of a man this officer was. The Bagerhat people will be right glad indeed if he does not return to the station.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 8th, 1904.

16. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th July publishes the following contradiction by Babu Lal Mohun Dey, Secretary, Bar Library, Dhubri, with reference to an article

A contradiction.

published in its issue of the 27th June last (Report on Native Papers of the 2nd July, paragraph 19).

Major Howell, the present Deputy Commissioner of Dhubri, has directed his best attention to the work of the Municipality. The people of Dhubri expect that under his management the Municipality will improve.

The allegation that Major Howell entered into the premises of the peon Matiulla is false. Matiulla has himself contradicted the statement. The Deputy Commissioner only employed some coolies to clear the jungle about a musjid near Matiulla's house. This did him no harm.

The writer has made unjust accusations in connection with the case of constable Durga Singh. The complaint against Durga Singh was very serious, and the Deputy Commissioner ordered him to be confined in the police lines. Next day Durga Singh was released, as the evidence against him was untrustworthy.

The allegation that the timber belonging to Babu Biswambhar Ghose, contractor, was ordered to be thrown into the river by the Deputy Commissioner is entirely false. The following is the letter written by him on the subject:—

"I find that in a communication headed 'The hakim of Dhubri' published in the *Daily Hitavadi* of the 13th *Asar* last, it has been stated that some timber belonging to me which was lying on the river side was thrown into it by order of the Deputy Commissioner. I am surprised to read that article. The occurrence is entirely false. I had a quantity of *sāl* timber by the river side which I voluntarily removed, as the bank was crumbling down. I had no conversation on the subject with the Deputy Commissioner and he issued no orders."

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 9th, 1904.

17. Referring to the Nicoll case, in which the Chief Presidency Magistrate, in consideration of the accused's age, and the loss of service and pension which he would suffer in consequence of his conviction, passed a lenient sentence upon him, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July observes:—

The Nicoll case.

We cannot say that the favour shown to the accused was anything but just. But the regret is that the difference of colour often makes a difference in the treatment of the accused person by the law-courts. It is doubtful whether the Magistrate would have been moved with similar feelings of commiseration and fellow-feeling if the accused, instead of being a European, had been a native.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
July 7th, 1904.

18. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th July takes exception to the rules passed by the authorities of the Bihar School of Engineering by which out of a total of 60 students in the school, 45 must be Biharis, and if students from the Central and the United Provinces should apply for admission to the school, they will have a prior claim to that of the Bengali students resident in Bihar. In Bengal people from all parts of India can get service and receive education; why then should the Bengalis be denied the same privileges in other provinces? Why, again, should not those Bengalis, who have permanently settled in other provinces, enjoy equal privileges with the people of those provinces? The writer hopes that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will take due notice of the rules passed by the authorities of the Bihar School of Engineering.

Exclusion of Bengalis from the Bihar School of Engineering.

19. A teacher writes in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 9th, 1904.

Some approved text-books for vernacular schools.

Most of the books written for vernacular schools under the Kindergarten system have murdered the Bengali language. The Government of India have, in their recent Educational Resolution, expressed the opinion that native boys should pay greater attention than at present to the learning of their mother tongue. But the books which are being selected as text-books by the conscientious members of the Text-Book Committee will only help the boys to forget what knowledge

of their mother tongue they already acquired, instead of improving that knowledge.

The members of the Text-Book Committee, who are very kind and considerate to their unworthy protégés, seem to select the worst books in the Bengali language as text-books for schools. We are not aware whether this is the result of a determination on the part of the members not to let the Bengali boy learn anything or of their own ignorance of the language. Newspaper agitation has done no good. Such agitation, instead of setting matters right, only increases the *zill* of the authorities to persevere in the course they have taken. Indeed, to think of the fate of Bengali boy makes the teacher community sick at heart and despondent.

Some time ago another correspondent criticised the *Balya Vinod* and some other text-books, but he had evidently no opportunity of looking into *Midel Bharnakular Sahitya Pustak* and *Uchcha Primary Sahitya Pustak* by Mahamahopadhyaya Nilmani Mukhopadhyaya Nyayalankar, M.A., B.L. formerly Principal of the Calcutta Sanskrit College, or he would have seen that for boys to read the latter two books after finishing those he criticises would be for them a change from the frying-pan into the fire.

It might have been expected of the late Principal of the Calcutta Sanskrit College that he should know the Bengali for "Middle Vernacular," or, at least, that he should know the proper pronunciation of the word "Middle" and not pronounce it as "Midel."

The *Midel Bharnakular Sahitya Pustak* is divided into three parts, the first of which contains the narrative of the *Mahabharat* up to the *Birat Parva* in wretched Bengali, and is named *Dhananjay Vijaya*, which is a misnomer. The second part, named *Bhaktir Upahar*, is a collection of poems, hymns, Brahmo songs and even songs sung by *jatra* parties. From the title of this part, one would not be wrong in assuming that the collection was not made by the author himself, but was presented to him as an offering of devotion by some devotee of his. The third part of the book which is devoted to Grammar shows the Nyayalankar's proficiency in that subject. He defines Grammar as follows:—"Reading of Grammar teaches one how to speak and write correctly"—evidently forgetting the Sanskrit definition. Is it impossible to speak correctly without reading grammar? There is no Grammar in the Sonthali language; is it then to be supposed that the Sonthals speak incorrectly? Women never read Grammar; do they, therefore, speak incorrectly? If, however, we accept Nilmani Babu's definition of Grammar as correct, we must then say that Nilmani Babu himself never read Grammar, for there are passages in his books which are written in incorrect Bengali. This part of his book contains the following passage at the very beginning:—

“ব্যাকরণে হয়টি একরকম আছে; বর্ণমালা, শব্দ, ক্রিয়া, সমাস, তত্ত্বিত ও রচনা। যথাক্রমে বিবৃত হইতেছে”।

In this passage where is the nominative of “বিবৃত হইতেছে”?

“জ্যোতির্গাথ পাঠ্য ও কৌরব বালকগণকে সমানভাবে শ্রুতিদ্বারা শিক্ষা দিলেন, কিন্তু অন্ধুর সকলের মধ্যে অগ্রগণ্য হইলেন কেন, ‘উহা’ অনেকাংশে যত্ন ও একাগ্রতার গুণে”—page 26, *Uchcha Primary Sahitya Pustak*. To what does ‘উহা’ in this passage refer? ‘উহা’ is a pronoun, for what noun does it stand? The author gives the following incorrect definition of ‘সর্বনাম’ or pronoun:—

“কোন পদ বার বার নির্দেশ না করিয়া, তৎপরিবর্তে সর্বনাম প্রযুক্ত হয়।”

According to this definition, a pronoun can be used to avoid the repetition of any word whatever. But is that so? Again, “বার বার নির্দেশ না করিয়া” is incorrect. The passage should have run—“বার বার প্রয়োগ বা ব্যবহার না করিয়া.” In what case is the word ‘পদ’? With what verb is it related? Is this the model of correct writing which the Nyayalankar places before the boys?

Here is a specimen of correct writing from the grammatical portion of his *Midel Bharnakular Sahitya Pustak*:—

“বাক্যনা ভাবায় নী লিখে আকারান্ত ‘হইয়া’ বিশেষণের তন প্রয়োগ দেখিতে পাওয়া যায় না।”—page 24. Has ‘হইয়া’ been used in this passage to make its language correct?

Again, in the essay headed “চরিত্র বিকাশ” :—

“কেহ বা পরিভ্রমের গুণে নানা বিষয়ের সম্বন্ধ করে ও সংবাদ রাখে, এবং লিখিতে ও বক্তৃতা করিতে সমর্থ হয়। কিন্তু সেই সমস্ত বিষয় ইতিপূর্বেই আবিষ্কৃত ও প্রচারিত হইয়াছে; তন্মধ্যে নূতন কিছুই নাই।”—page 28.

Can anybody decipher the meaning of this passage? We would humbly ask the members of the Text-Book Committee to explain ‘সেই সমস্ত বিষয় ইতিপূর্বেই আবিষ্কৃত ও প্রচারিত হইয়াছে’ and ‘তন্মধ্যে নূতন কিছুই নাই’ in the above passage.

This is how the author defines ‘প্রতিভা’ or genius:—

“অতি উচ্চদরের বুদ্ধিকে প্রতিভা বলে; প্রতিভা দ্বারা নূতন নূতন বিষয়ের আবিষ্কার ও অভাবনীয় ঘটনার সমাধা হয়। যেমন কাব্যে শেকসপীর, যুদ্ধবিদ্যায় নেপোলিয়নের, গণিতে নিউটনের, বর্ত্তমান বর্ক, রাজনীতিতে বিসমার্ক।”—page 29, *Uchchu Primary Sahitya Pustak*. Compare the expression ‘অভাবনীয় ঘটনা’ in this passage with the same expression in the following passage:—

“উপস্থিত বুদ্ধি অতি অল্প লোকেরই দেখা যায়। ইহাৎ কোনও ‘অভাবনীয় ঘটনা’ উপস্থিত হইলে, যাহার উপস্থিত বুদ্ধি আছে, তিনি তৎক্ষণাৎ উহার প্রতিবিধান করেন।”—page 28, *Uchchu Primary Sahitya Pustak*.

Does anybody believe that writings like these will help to awaken the intelligence of boys of a tender age? We do not know what qualification the books possessed to induce the Text-Book Committee to include them in their list. The Committee ought to be ashamed of their action.

20. In continuation of his article in the *Daily Hitavadi* of the 9th July [see above, paragraph 19], a teacher writing in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th July finds fault with the poetical portions of Mahamahopadhyaya Nilmani Nyayalankar's vernacular text-books *Midel Bharnakular Sahitya Pustak* and *Uchchu Primary Sahitya Pustak* in regard to their sentiments, metre, rhyme, language, and even spelling.

The correspondent has nothing to say to Nilmani Babu, who certainly wrote the books from greed of gold. But praised be the members of the Text-Book Committee who prescribed them as text-books! The sense of duty they have displayed in the selection of these books will put to shame the conscience of the worst men of the country. The correspondent and many other members of the teacher community have become really anxious for the future of boys who are made to read books written in such execrable language.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 10th, 1904.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

21. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 29th June complains, on the authority of a local correspondent, that the lessees of the cattle pounds at Nahautta and Nallia offer unfair inducements to bring cattle into their pounds. A reward of two annas is paid for each head of cattle that is brought in. In the hope of getting this reward strangers often untie cattle from the posts to which they are tied when grazing and drive them into the pounds. When releasing them, the lessees charge their owners more than the rate fixed by rule, and refuse to give any receipt for the money paid. There are no proper arrangements for the housing of the cattle or for the supply of their drinking-water. All this causes great loss to the villagers.

JASOHAR,
June 29th, 1904.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th July has the following:—
The road to Maniknagar Ghât at Bhadreswar. We see that Government is quite bent on making over the road to Maniknagar Ghât at Bhadreswar to the mill-owners. The residents of the locality made two

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
July 6th, 1904.

representations to Government to keep the road for public use, but we see that arrangements to acquire it on behalf of Government are in progress. If Government really means to make this road over to the mill-owners, it should frankly say so. In the notification for acquiring the land it is declared that it is required for a public purpose. Our Lieutenant-Governor is the son of a pious Christian missionary. He himself has the reputation of being a sincere follower of his faith. We appeal to him personally to say if this road is not being acquired by Government for the benefit of the mill-owners.

If Government only meant to improve it while still keeping it open for the use of the public, where was the need of buying it up? The wording of the notification above referred to has raised hopes in some quarters that after all the road is not to be made over to the mill-owners. But our local correspondent is still sceptical, and strongly affirms that Government can have no other object in buying up the land than to transfer it to them. Once it is in the latter's possession, the fate of the sacred *aswatha* trees planted on its sides will be sealed.

KHULNA,
July 7th, 1904.

23. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 7th July observes:—

The water-supply question. If the Lieutenant-Governor, now out on tour, takes the trouble of personally examining a single village with care, he will see what sore straits the people of Bengal are put to for want of pure drinking water. We confine our remarks to Khulna only. He will not have to go far. He may take any large village within five miles of the sadar station and he will see how in this month of *Asar* at the height of the rainy season, the people are in serious want of a supply of pure drinking water. A passing visit to the sadar town, specially cleaned and made up for the occasion, cannot give much of an idea of the real condition of the district as a whole.

BANGAVASI,
July 9th, 1904.

24. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July says:—

The question of water-supply in the mufassal. We have requested our mufassal readers to furnish us with detailed information regarding the sources of water-supply in each separate village in each separate district. The details will show the total number of tanks and wells, and differentiate between those tanks which contain water fit for drinking and bathing purposes; those which are newly excavated as well as those which are only re-excavated; and those which have become unuseable. In villages where there are no tanks, the source from which drinking-water is obtained should be distinctly stated. No exaggerated statement of any sort should be made in these descriptions.

BANGAVASI.

25. A correspondent of the same paper reports serious water-scarcity

Water-scarcity in Khulna. in certain villages near Morelganj in the Khulna district. There is no good tank, and the water in the *beel* is overgrown with weeds. The only resource of the villagers is the dirty water of the Bhola. The District Board were memorialised many times, but without effect.

SOLTAN,
July 8th, 1904.

26. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 8th July points out the need of a

A Muhammadan food-inspector for Calcutta.

Muhammadan Food Inspector for Calcutta. The present Hindu Inspectors are compelled to confine their examination to the sweetmeat shops and the fish-market. Nobody examines the meat which is used by the Muhammadan *kabab* shops. Even at Fouzdari Balakhana, where the best of meat shops are situated, the meat rejected by the butchers is bought up cheap and made into *kababs* for sale. The Muhammadan sweetmeat sellers are also offenders in this respect, as they enjoy practical immunity from the visits of the Hindu Inspectors.

DAILY
H. TAVADI,
July 9th, 1904.

27. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July complains that the

The native quarters of Calcutta during the rains.

condition of the native quarters of Calcutta, always so bad, becomes most miserable during a heavy downpour of rain. All the streets from Dharamtolla to Shambazar and Baghbazar are flooded, the water at places reaching to the waist and sometimes to the chin. It was thought that, under the new municipal *régime*, this state of things would come to an end. But the misfortune is that nothing has been done by way of improvement, only the

increase of taxation has been commensurate with the increase of public inconvenience. Why cannot the Municipality increase the number of *dhangars* for the cleansing of drains during the rains?

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

28. The *Kasipur Nibasi* [Barisal] of the 6th July publishes the following from a correspondent:—

The settlement of Backergunge.

The settlement of the Backergunge district, now in progress, has given rise to conjectures as to the motive which led to its being undertaken. Some think that the ultimate abolition of the permanent settlement is at the bottom of it. According to others its object is to minimise the possibility of dispute arising between landlord and tenant. Personally, we favour the latter supposition, as we know from experience that Government has our good at heart in whatever it does.

But while admitting this, we would draw attention to some defects in the actual operation of the settlement. For instance, we would prefer that the settlement of the land disputes should rest with the Judicial rather than with the Executive officers of Government. It is also said, we know not with what truth, that bribery is rather too common in this department, owing probably to the paucity of high-placed European and educated Bengali officers.

There is another point to be mentioned in this connection. The murders, assaults, litigation, etc., which occur in connection with land disputes in Backergunge, owe their origin mostly to differences of opinion among the co-sharers of an estate.

It has come to be a part of our nature that wherever there are two co-sharers they are at loggerheads. Even in the case of two brothers living apart but holding their estate jointly, disputes about their property arise. That this is so nobody can deny who has any regard for truth, and many people have learned it by bitter experience. Inquiry will reveal the fact that the stronger co-sharer cheats the weaker one. Any *vakil* will tell you that it is practically impossible to get your lands partitioned by instituting a partition suit in the Civil Courts. If Mr. Bell could have added to his settlement department a branch department to deal with these partition cases, he would have saved scores of zamindars and their tenants from being cheated out of their rights. The time is specially favourable, as much of the machinery required in such a department is already available in the settlement department. Cases of disputed ownership will have to be decided now, and the survey *amins* are available to take the measurements. The only thing that requires to be done in addition is that a responsible officer of sufficient standing should distinctly mark out the several parts of the estate to be partitioned. One can imagine how much good would be done by this small additional trouble, but our habits are such we would do nothing except on compulsion, even to serve our own interests. The cost that would fall on the proprietors would be nothing compared with the cost of a suit in the Civil Courts, and yet nobody would stir. Where there is any special difficulty as regards the ownership of any particular piece of land, the following arrangement might be made. The portion in dispute might be left out, and the rest of the land marked out. The portion so left out might be kept under the control of the *panchayet*, and the annual income deposited in the Collectorate. When at the end of a fixed time the suit is finally decided by the Civil Court, the rent might be made over to the person adjudged to be the owner. It is presumption for an outsider to attempt to frame detailed rules on this question, but if the principle is accepted, the fertile brain of Mr. Bell (who acts the part of a second Cornwallis to this district) will no doubt be able to supply them. These disputes between co-sharers exist in connection with all classes of land, whether zamindari or talukdari or jot.

The partition of zamindari lands may be a difficult matter costing time and money. But the majority of the population are holders of *khas khamar* lands, and the relief should not be withheld from these.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

29. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th July says that railway officers, especially European and Eurasian officers, frequently ill-treat the passengers. In most of

Railway matters.

KASIPUR NIBASI,
July 6th, 1904.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 4th, 1904.

these cases the aggrieved parties cannot complain to the railway authorities. But should railway officers be allowed to do what they please? Do not the authorities give any instructions to their officers when appointing them about their duties? When complaints are made against railway officers, the Railway Company supports them. If any passenger seeks redress in a law-court against any railway officer, the Railway Company engages pleaders and barristers to defend him.

When a passenger arrives at a station too late to purchase a ticket, he is allowed under the existing rules to proceed by the train without a ticket by previously informing the Station Master and the guard of the train, and on payment of the fare the guard grants a receipt for the amount paid. But it is seen that the guard often refuses to grant a receipt, saying that he has got no receipt-book with him. When the passenger arrives at his destination, the guard refuses to report his arrival to the officer in charge of the station, and thereby release him from a difficult situation. As an illustration, the following case of a correspondent may be cited:—

On the 26th June last Babu Syamacharan Mukerji, Dunbar Mill, Samnagar, arrived at the Rishra station too late to purchase a ticket for Bali. He informed the Station Master of this, who in his turn informed the Guard. At Bali the Guard refused to grant a receipt for the fare and contemptuously remarked, "Go to hell, I am not going to give you any certificate." The passenger then requested the Guard to tell the Station Master of Bali that he was a passenger from Rishra. But he only abused the passenger. The passenger was then about to be made over to the police. But a railway *khalasi* being sent with him to his house, he paid him annas 15, out of which he now claims a refund of annas 14. The train in which he travelled was the Tarakeswar down train No. 44.

The editor says that Babu Abinas Chandra Chakrabarti, Railway Police Inspector at Burdwan, is a popular officer well-known for his good qualities.

DAILY
HITAVADI,
July 5th, 1904.

30. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th July writes that on the 24th May last, on his way to Patgram station on the Bengal-Duars Railway, he

A railway complaint. had to make a halt at Lalmonir Hât station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. He arrived with his party at 8-30 P.M., and as there was no separate waiting-room for native ladies, they took shelter in the open shed which does duty for a waiting-room for third-class passengers. They were, however, soon ejected from this place to make room for the station employes, who had brought up a dancing girl to give a performance. The noise of the revelry going on was loud enough to reach the passengers, who were now waiting outside the station. The correspondent witnessed a repetition of the same disgraceful scene on the occasion of his return from his destination by the same route on the night of the 26th May. As before, the passengers were turned out of the third-class waiting-shed and the same company assembled to witness a similar performance. It is highly regrettable that at such a big station a public waiting-room built at Government expense should be used by public women to make an exhibition of their dancing.

SANJIVANI,
July 7th, 1904.

31. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th July publishes the following from correspondents:—

Railway and steamer complaints.

(1) On the 26th June last, two Bengali gentlemen with a lady were travelling in a third-class carriage on the Nalhati-Azimungunge branch line of the East Indian Railway by the No. 4 down train. They had purchased three tickets from Azimungunge to Bhagalpur, Nos. 5753, 5754, and 5755. At the Sagardighi station the Assistant Station Master of the station entered into their carriage and suddenly lost his temper and gave a thrust to the lady with his umbrella. One of the gentlemen having protested against such conduct, the man assaulted him also. A hue and cry was raised, and the Guard of the train rebuked the Assistant Station Master. At Nalhati the Railway Head Constable, Babu Haridas Mallick, was informed of the occurrence, but he took no action. It is to be hoped that the railway authorities will take due notice of the above.

(2) Babu Mono Mohun Chakrabarti complains that on the 19th June last the booking-clerk at the Gauhati station refused to issue tickets for Naraingunge.

(3) The next day, i.e., on the 20th June last, the Assam Mail Service steamer arrived at Jagannathgunge at 12 in the night. The correspondent

and his fellow-passengers, including females, prepared to pass the night on board the steamer. But the steamer clerk refused to allow them to remain there, and otherwise behaved very rudely towards them.

(4) The Guard of the train from Jagannathgunge, an old European, behaved very rudely towards the correspondent and his fellow-passengers for entering into a carriage, which, the Guard said, was reserved for females, although there was no means of distinguishing it from other carriages. Is there no remedy for such incivility?

32. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th July observes that the Assam-Bengal Railway, ever since it was opened, engaged only natives as ticket-collectors. Recently some

A railway complaint.

Europeans have been appointed to do duty at the Chittagong station, and they have begun to give trouble. They allow no outsider accompanying a passenger to enter the platform, except on payment of a pice, for which a ticket is supplied. Here is a new way of bleeding people. The hope is expressed that the authorities will interfere.

JYOTI,
July 7th, 1904.

33. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th July complains against the District Traffic Superintendent of the Chitpur line. The traders of Hatkhola allege that the new Superintendent is acting in a most irresponsible manner. He has no time to attend to their com-

A complaint against the District Traffic Superintendent of the Chitpur line.

BASUMATI,
July 9th, 1904.

plaints and representations, and treats them as persons of no importance. But such was not the practice when older and more experienced traffic officers held charge. They did not treat these traders as nobodies, nor did they dismiss their complaints lightly. Of course it is because the traders are natives that they are treated with such scant courtesy. But it should be remembered that most of these Hatkhola traders are very wealthy men. They pay large sums to the Company as freight, and yet are treated so unceremoniously.

34. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 9th July draws attention to the deplorable condition of the waiting-room for third-class passengers at the Asansol station, East Indian

Railway complaints.

Railway. The sheets which form the roof have become disjointed, and water leaks through, to the great inconvenience of those using the room. It is not at all to the credit of the Company that such a state of things should be tolerated at such a big station.

RATNAKAR,
July 9th, 1904.

The same paper says that a large number of mangoes are imported into Asansol, but that many of them vanish at the railway station, for which the traders have to thank the Company's servants. At the time of taking delivery of their consignments of fruits, traders have frequently to part with three or four of the fruits as presents to the railway employé concerned. Are the authorities powerless to stop these thefts by their servants?

A few days ago when the train from Puri arrived at Asansol in the evening the station was quite overcrowded. As a Uriya passenger was handing over his ticket to the Eurasian ticket-collector, his umbrella came in contact with the latter's body. This so enraged the ticket-collector that he snatched away the umbrella from the man's hand and gave him two or three kicks. The matter should receive the attention of the railway authorities. The European Sergeant attached to the station gives unnecessary trouble to passengers.

35. Writing in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July, one Sanatan Pradhan of village Kanpur, Bhadrak, says that at 6 in the morning of the 25th May last,

A railway complaint.

when he arrived at the Bhadrak station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to catch the Up Madras Mail train, the booking-clerk of the station was fast asleep. By the time he awoke the train had arrived at the station where it stops for half an hour. He then went to perform his morning ablutions. After finishing them he began to sell tickets. Only 30 passengers could catch the train. Many got tickets but failed to catch it. The correspondent and another person did not even get their tickets. When the correspondent urged the booking-clerk for a ticket, he was intimidated with a wooden ruler. After half an hour the approach of a goods train was announced by the ringing of a bell. But at that time the booking-clerk, the ticket-collector of the station and a policeman were engaged in extorting money from passengers. The correspondent told his case to another railway officer attached to the station.

DAILY
HITAVADI,
July 9th, 1904.

From the latter the correspondent learnt many things about the booking-clerk, and it was through his kindness in purchasing a ticket for the correspondent that the latter could prosecute his journey that day.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 13th, 1904.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th July publishes a letter from a correspondent from Diamond Harbour finding fault with some recent changes in the timing of trains

A railway complaint. in the Southern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Three changes are specially complained of:—

(1) No. 112 down mixed train under the new arrangements starts at 4-30 instead of at 3-18. This change made, it is said, for the convenience of a few students, greatly inconveniences the tradesmen who form the majority of passengers by this train.

(2) No. 176 down passenger train carries mostly office clerks who naturally wish to be at home as early as possible. But under the new arrangements its departure from Calcutta is delayed 16 minutes (from 5-24 P.M. to 5-40) and the arrival at Diamond Harbour 21 minutes. The difference of five minutes is due to diminished speed and longer halts on the way.

(3) The case of No. 116 down passenger train is exactly on all fours with that of No. 176. It also mainly carries office people. Its time of departure has been changed from 6-4 P.M. to 6-40 P.M., and the rate of speed decreased from 24 miles to 20 miles an hour.

Another thing wanted is the service of a suitable system of corresponding up and down trains. There are at present ten trains daily running from Diamond Harbour to Calcutta. But there are only two trains in the course of the whole day time for the return journey from Calcutta to Diamond Harbour. There are three others which arrive at Diamond Harbour in quick succession from 6 in the evening to 9 30 at night. These timings might be re-adjusted with the above end in view.

DAILY HITAVADI.

37. The same paper publishes another letter from a second correspondent complaining of the insufficiency of the through train service from Telkalghat to Amta. There are only two through trains. The respective times of departure and arrival of the up and down trains are 9-30 A.M. and 2 P.M., and 2-30 P.M. and 8 P.M. As there are courts at Amta, the time to leave Howrah should be 7 A.M. instead of 9-30 A.M. Sir J. Woodburn suggested such a change; it was acted on during his lifetime, but has since been discontinued.

Train service on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 5th, 1904.

38. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th July thanks the railway authorities for the new timing of the Dacca-Mymensingh railway which has enabled the Calcutta mail to be delivered in Mymensingh town about 12 hours earlier than before. But the new timing has caused much inconvenience to the passengers. The following changes may remove this inconvenience:—

The new timing of the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway.

(1) The train which leaves Jagannathgunge in the morning and arrives at Mymensingh at 9-30 should leave Jagannathgunge two hours earlier so as to arrive at Mymensingh at 7-30.

(2) The morning 6-58 train need not be run; the train arriving half an hour later from Jagannathgunge should start for Dacca.

(3) The train arriving at Mymensingh from Dacca at 5-58 in the afternoon should leave for Jagannathgunge at 6-30 without waiting at Mymensingh.

BANKURA DARPAN,
July 8th, 1904.

39. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th July insists on the urgent need for two new roads, both to start from Bankura station, one to run north and the other east. The length of neither of these roads would exceed half or quarter of a mile. The inhabitants of quite a number of villages, large and small, have now to take a round-about way in order to come to the station; they would greatly benefit by the proposed roads.

Great stress is also laid on the need of widening the principal thoroughfare which connects the station and the town. The existing width is quite insufficient for the traffic which passes over the road.

40. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 12th July doubts the correctness of the report which has been published by the authorities of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to the effect that only one man died and four were wounded in the accident which recently took place on the line. As a matter of fact, seven passenger carriages were seriously damaged and two or three were smashed. Railway authorities are in the habit of concealing the truth in such cases.

NIHAR,
July 12th, 1904.

The question of drainage in the Contai subdivision.

NIHAR.

41. The same paper hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor will soon pay a visit to Midnapore, and make a final settlement of the perplexing and yet important question of the drainage of many of the parganas of the Contai subdivision.

(h)—General.

Postal delays in the Manbhum district.

41. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 5th July complains of the delays of the local post-office. The villages which do not possess a post-office of their own get their letters delivered only once or twice in a whole week. In these days of mass education almost everybody has something or other to do with the post-office, and consequently the inconvenience complained of is widely felt. The Loulara post-office is mentioned as a specific case. The villages served by this office contain quite a number of educated men, but letters are delivered by the peon only once a week. Formerly the visits of the post-peon used to be more frequent, but recently the post-master has begun to act as stamp-vendor also, and probably keeps the peon engaged to assist him in the discharge of his double duties.

MANBHUM,
July 5th, 1904.

The subscribers to this newspaper, fully 99 per cent. of whom are resident in the district, often have to wait over a week to get it.

42. Referring to the ensuing visit of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to Barisal town, the *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 6th July writes as follows:—

BARISAL HITAIISHI
July 6th, 1904.

His Honour will come, see the town, have interviews with some respectable men, and go away. A procession will no doubt be got up for his welcome, large expenses will be incurred, addresses will be given, hackney carriages will be greatly in requisition, and so on. But what will the people gain by all this? Gubernatorial tours would have given them some satisfaction if, instead of gathering information through other people's mouths as is done at Simla and Calcutta, Lieutenant-Governors had, on these occasions, learnt them from the mouth of the raiyat himself. But instead of doing so they satisfy themselves with receiving addresses from the educated community which, according to the Government itself, constitutes only a microscopic minority among the inhabitants of the country. From such addresses the Lieutenant-Governor will learn nothing of the oppressions which are caused by the income-tax, the chaukidari-tax, and the police, the judicial vagaries which ruin many a prosperous household, the hardship that is caused by the want of proper water-supply, and the panic which prevails in the country on account of the frequent occurrence of theft. How can he then expect to command our heart-felt respect? How shall we know whether he comes for his own amusement or for our sake?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
July 6th, 1904.

Government and the employment of Indians in the public service.

43. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th July has the following:—
Government claims to be showing unexampled liberality towards Indians. It is true that it fills all the higher posts with Europeans, but does it not thereby spare the natives the terrible burden and anxiety of discharging the duties of a responsible post? Is not this an instance of unexampled liberality? In Bengal perhaps there are one or two natives, unfortunate enough to be burdened with the duties of high office. But the United Provinces afford an example of a free and lavish display of this sort of liberality. The nine Commissioners of Divisions are all Europeans and so are all their Head Assistants. Formerly there was one single native Head Assistant in the person of Babu Kali Prasanna Mukerjee. But when the Commissionership of Jhansi was abolished, he was shunted off by being made Munsariff to a Judge.

It all reminds us of the fable of the tiger and the fawn. The tiger meant to kill the fawn. The fawn pleaded that he never did anybody any harm. The tiger in reply called the fawn an ungrateful wretch and claimed that he was showing great kindness in killing him, as, if he lived, he would always have to go about in fear of ferocious animals. It was arranging for his despatch to a place where there was no fear, and thus deserved his gratitude and not his reproaches. It was a sin even to let such an ungrateful wretch live. With this he killed the poor fawn.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
July 6th, 1904.

44. The same paper complains of the hardships caused by the Arms Act. People live in constant terror of thieves and robbers as well as wild animals. But the authorities who boast of their benevolent rule have disarmed the natives completely by a rigid enforcement of this Act. If anybody is caught using a fire-arm through pure ignorance without a license he runs the risk of losing all his property. Dilwar Shekh, an inhabitant of village Tikonin in Alipur, was arrested by the police out hunting, with a gun in his possession, and fined a hundred rupees for his offence.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA.

45. A correspondent of the same paper makes a spirited appeal to the people of East Bengal and their leaders to make a powerful agitation in England against the proposed partition of Bengal.

DACCA PRAKAS,
July 10th, 1904.

46. It is surmised by some people, writes the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 10th July, that the object of this second visit of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to Dacca town so soon after the first is only to hold a conference about a particular matter relating to the estate of the Nawab of Dacca, the consideration of which was rendered necessary by the sudden death of Mr. Garth. Whatever the true object may be, it seems likely that this visit of His Honour to Dacca has nothing to do with matters of public interest. Nor will His Honour receive any addresses from the public bodies. But these two visits of His Honour to Dacca in one and the same year have supplied us with food for reflection. One of the main arguments of Mr. Risley in favour of the partition of Bengal was that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal could hardly make time to visit such an important town as Dacca even for once within five years. How then could His Honour visit Dacca twice within a single year? If Mr. Risley's arguments are to be believed, one of two conclusions is irresistible; either His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser has in his time very little administrative work to perform and is therefore able to find time for tours of inspection, or His Honour's predecessors were totally unfit for carrying on the administration of the Province. Sir Andrew Fraser has shown that if the administration of the country is entrusted to an energetic and thoroughly competent ruler, he finds ample time for tours of inspection after having performed all other work. The editor hopes that His Honour will at least do some service to the people of Dacca by protesting against the argument referred to above.

RANGALAY,
July 10th, 1904.

47. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 10th July says that from March 1905, the Chittagong Division will form a part of Assam, and it cannot be said that the same fate will not overtake Dacca and Mymensingh. The writer says that this information is correct.

SANJIVANI,
July 7th, 1904.

48. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th July has the following :—
Mr. Dwarka Nath Mitra was a District Judge. The High Court as well as Government always praised him. Wherever he went he was held in high esteem for his noble character and his judicial abilities. It was Mr. Marindin who insulted such a highly respected gentleman. It is deeply to be regretted that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor gave his sanction to what Mr. Marindin did. But we firmly believe that if His Honour had known the true character of Mr. Marindin, he would never have approved of his conduct in insulting one to whom all honour was due. Mr. Mitra gave evidence against Mr. P. C. Mitter and reported against him for a particular act of his. Was it for this that Mr. Mitra was insulted? Mr. Mitra does not know whether Mr. Marindin

properly recorded his evidence, and yet His Honour depended upon Mr. Marindin's report and approved of the insult offered by him to Mr. Mitra. We must say with all respect that His Honour has not acted properly in this matter. A commission of enquiry ought to have been appointed for ascertaining the truth or otherwise of the charges brought against Mr. P. C. Mitter before pronouncing final judgment in the case. We again beseech His Honour to appoint a commission for enquiry into the charges brought against Mr. P. C. Mitter.

We do not know what Mr. Mitra said about Mr. P. C. Mitter. But we know the contents of a report which he made against Mr. Mitter. We shall now disclose it here:—

Mr. P. C. Mitter was the administrator of the late Babu Dakshinamohun Ray's estate. He and the Manager of the estate, Babu Harilal Gupta, opened two model agricultural farms, one within the compound of the Magistrate's residence, and the other in the compound of the zamindar's cutcherry, with the money of the above-named estate. A large sum of money was spent on the farms and their produce was also plentiful. But no account either of the produce or of the money could be produced by Mr. P. C. Mitter and Babu Harilal Gupta.

Mr. Dwarkanath Mitra, when he succeeded, Mr. Mitter as administrator of the estate, made an enquiry into the matter and tried to find out the truth from the *malis* of the farms and the *amla* of the estate.

Srimanta Mali deposed as follows:—

He was the *mali* of the farm within the compound of the Magistrate's *kuthi*. Naini Tal potatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers and other vegetables were grown in that farm. The outturn of the potato was about 10 or 12 maunds. The whole quantity was stored in the Magistrate's own storehouse by Harilal Babu's orders. Harilal Babu said, "the Magistrate has asked for a few maunds of potato to send to his home. Give him what he wants." The Magistrate's servant then weighed 5 or 6 maunds of potato and took them. Some officers took away a few maunds of the potato.

Did Mr. Dwarkanath Mitra commit a crime by disclosing these nefarious deeds? Mr. Marindin may say that it was improper to do so. But we cannot support such a revolting proposition, nor will His Honour be able to support it.

We again respectfully beseech His Honour to enquire into the facts relating to the agricultural farms. Let His Honour enquire why Mr. Mitra was insulted. We can guarantee that, as the result of this enquiry, many ugly truths will come to light. In trying to save Mr. P. C. Mitter, Mr. Marindin insulted Mr. Mitra. But if a Commission is appointed, many unpleasant facts relating to Mr. Marindin will certainly be disclosed.

49. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 8th July in an article headed "The *Sanjivani* dreams or an attack upon Mr. Marindin," writes:—

Mr. Marindin at Rangpur—a contradiction.

The *Sanjivani*, though it has the word "Equality" for its motto, brings false charges against Mr. P. C. Mitter, the District Magistrate of Rangpur, who is known to be a large-minded gentleman and a good judge. We make bold to declare that the informant of our contemporary must be one of his creatures who supplied him with incorrect information. We in Rangpur hear nothing but good reports about Mr. Mitter. It was also highly improper on the part of the *Sanjivani* to have charged an officer of Mr. Marindin's position with all sorts of misconduct. The editor, it is to be hoped, will first of all gather correct information before saying anything against highly placed officers of Government and should not allow self-interest to interfere with his judgment. How far the *Sanjivani* is misinformed about the matter will appear from the fact that it makes Mr. D. N. Mitra an officer of the Tushbhandar Estate of the late Babu Ramanimohan Ray, which he is not. Mr. D. N. Mitra said *what he had heard* against Mr. P. C. Mitter. But is hearsay any evidence? It is a fact that Mr. D. N. Mitra, after giving evidence before the Commissioner, was very sorry when he came to know that there was a conspiracy underlying the charges against Mr. Mitter. It was natural that Mr. Marindin should

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
July 8th, 1904.

be displeased with Mr. D. N. Mitra for having said many things against a worthy gentleman. But Mr. Mitra should not be deprived of his title if he has said anything through carelessness. He only said what he had heard. If he had no malice against Mr. Mitter, then surely it would be unjust to deprive him of his title. There can be no doubt that Government meant to honour him for his ability and other good qualities. If he had been granted the *Sanad* previous to the enquiry into the late unseemly quarrel, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor could not possibly have wrested the title from him. But there is another difficulty. On the 22nd June last, when His Honour came to Rangpur, the Commissioner asked Mr. Mitra to make up his quarrel with Mr. P. C. Mitter. But Mr. Mitra refused, and his refusal must have changed the mind of the Commissioner. According to the *Sanjivani*, the Commissioner took a one-sided view of the quarrel between Mr. K. N. Ray and Mr. P. C. Mitter, in that he held the former guilty. But can the *Sanjivani* suggest how the Commissioner could have arrived at a different conclusion? Mr. P. C. Mitter was also held guilty by the Government, otherwise he would not have been so promptly transferred from Rangpur, says the *Sanjivani*. This cannot be true. He had already nearly completed his term of office in Rangpur, and he has not been transferred to a worse place. His Honour also expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which he had done his duties.

HITAVADI,
July 8th, 1904.

50. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th July says that Mr. Sanderson, the Superintendent of the Rangoon Government Press, is avenging himself on some of his subordinates on the suspicion that the articles which have appeared against him in this newspaper were inspired by them. He has fined four of them and is trying to bring two others to punishment. One dismissed servant of the press has become the particular object of his suspicion, but as Mr. Sanderson's arm does not reach that man, he is trying to injure him by writing against him to the heads of other Government presses with the object that he may not be employed by any of them. It is in the nature of arbitrary and oppressive officers to seek to wreak their vengeance on those who expose them. No less a personage than the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Charles Elliott, evinced a strong desire to punish the *Hitavadi* newspaper and some of his own subordinates in the matter of the publication of some confidential official papers in that newspaper. Government should appoint a commission—it is so very fond of appointing commissions—to inspect and enquire into Mr. Sanderson's work in the Rangoon Government Press. A correspondent says that some time after his appointment at Rangoon, Mr. Sanderson compelled the jamadar daftri of the press to take three months' privilege leave and go over to Calcutta to learn work in the Government Central Press. But Mr. Sanderson did not give the man any travelling or special allowance, neither did he take the permission of the Government in the matter, as he ought to have done. The daftri also was not at that time entitled to get three months' privilege leave. It is to be wondered how Mr. Ross, the Superintendent of the Central Press, could, in a demi-official letter, give his sanction to such an irregular arrangement. Mr. Sanderson had entertained the applications of some of the compositors of the Bengal Secretariat Press for service in the Burma Press, although they had not been permitted by their official superior to apply to him. Mr. Meikle, the then officiating Superintendent of the Bengal Secretariat Press, objected to this conduct on Mr. Sanderson's part in his letter No. 157A., dated the 17th September 1903. But a few months after Mr. Sanderson did the same thing again, and appointed some of the Bengal Secretariat Press compositors under him. This gave rise to a dispute between him and Mr. Chalmers, Superintendent of the Bengal Secretariat Press. The Executive Engineer of Thayetmo had some time ago advertised for a draftsman in the *Indian Engineering*. The proprietor of the paper submitted a bill for Rs. 250 as the cost of the advertisement. But Mr. Sanderson reduced its amount according to his own will. Now, Mr. Sanderson is authorised to revise only such bills as may be submitted by newspapers published in Burma. The proprietor of the *Indian Engineering* has refused to have anything to do with Mr. Sanderson. The matter has not yet been settled.

51. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July observes:—

BANGAVASI,
July 9th, 1904.

The Excise policy of Government.

In the letter addressed by the Government of India to the Local Governments, forwarding for report Mr. Lely's note on the Excise question, it is said:—

"It would be a matter of great regret to them (Government) if it were true, as stated by Mr. Lely, that the belief prevails generally among the native community that the Government deliberately foster the liquor traffic for the sake of the revenue which it produces."

It may or may not be a source of regret to Government, but the fact remains that a large part of the native community really entertain the belief, and their belief is justified by such facts as the introduction of the out-still system in the time of Sir A. Eden, which has in certain places led to so much increase of drinking. However, it is a matter of rejoicing that Government has set itself to remove this reproach from its name. And our rejoicings would have been unbounded if Government had found it possible to agree with Mr. Lely that "the ultimate aim of the Excise administration in India should be to put down drinking altogether." Government, however, believes that such an ideal, even if desirable, is not practicable. No reason is given for this belief: it is merely given on the authority of the Government of India, backed by the Secretary of State. We are sure that if Government makes sincere efforts it can lay the axe at the root of this great evil. Government, however, favours other plans: it would raise the tax as much as possible to decrease consumption; it would, in arranging for the sale of liquor, pay regard to the habits and opinions of the local public. But these are not sufficient for the purpose. We beseech the Government with joined hands to earn the gratitude of all India by adopting stricter measures to put down the sale of liquor.

52. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th July calls attention to

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 11th, 1904.

Oppression in the Sonthal Parganas.

certain forms of oppression alleged to prevail in the Government khas mahal of Damin-i-Koh in the district of the Sonthal Parganas. This tract of country consists wholly of hills, jungles and uncultivable land, and is inhabited only by Sonthals, Kols, Paharias and other aboriginal tribes. In consideration of the character of the soil and the people, Government contents itself with levying the land tax at only half the rate prevailing elsewhere. But, unfortunately, a system of forced labour prevails, which completely mars the effect of this concession. Whenever a Government officer appears in a village, the whole village is made to feel his presence. The villagers are made to carry his baggage or to forward his letters. Resistance is punished with abuse or even personal chastisement, like caning or pulling by the ears.

This is the general rule. The following is a specially gross instance of the evil complained of. It was intended to build dâk bungalows on an improved plan all over the khas mahal. As designed, they would have cost at least Rs. 2,500 each, but Mr. Bompas, the Deputy Commissioner, devised the following ingenious method to reduce the cost to Rs. 424 only. As wood, straw, bamboos and other building materials are plentiful in the district, the inhabitants of each locality were called on to supply them gratis. The villagers were similarly made to bring sand from the river-side and prepare lime out of ghooting, without any payment being made to them even for bare subsistence. After the materials were brought together, these same villagers had to help the masons. Two or three villages supplied gangs of workmen by rotation. They had to do all the unskilled labour, such as attending to the orders of the masons, drawing water from the well, working the mortar mill, etc.

The way was thus shown by Mr. Bompas. With the arrival of Mr. Thompson at Dumka, the system received a new stimulus. For over a month, he visited every bungalow under construction, and personally supervised the working of the coolies. A harsh code of punishments was introduced for those who failed to work to his satisfaction. In some cases blocks of stone were placed on the breast of the offender; in others, the offender was made to stand the whole day supporting another man on his back; or he was made to walk about carrying a heavy piece of wood on his shoulder. Severe whipping was inflicted on the slightest pretexts. In this way very rapidly quite a number of bungalows were built up—three in the Rajmahal subdivision, three in Godda, and two in Pakur.

There is another serious subject of complaint. A system prevails in the khas mahal by which Government makes advance of grain to the cultivators to be returned by them with an addition of half the quantity advanced. As this grain gets deteriorated if it remains long stored in the granary, it becomes necessary to get rid of it as soon as possible. Consequently loans are thrust on villagers who do not want them, and punctual repayment is enforced by personal violence. It is said that one poor fellow actually succumbed under this ill-treatment.

This, however, does not close the list of Mr. Thompson's misdeeds. He has not confined his pranks to the khas mahal, but has extended them to the zamindari tract also. He withheld the pay of the chaukidars on one occasion until they helped in the building of a dāk bungalow which he projected on the road between Dumka and Jamtara. When their share of the work was done they got chastisement instead of any reward for their pains.

Although Mr. Thompson is now away at Deoghur, he has left behind an evil example, which is faithfully followed by his successors.

RANGALAY,
July 10th, 1904.

53. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 10th July writes as follows:—

Prevention of malaria in Bengal.

In reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's question as to why sanitary measures are not adopted in Bengal in order to check the course of malaria in it, the Sanitary Commissioner has said that the obtuseness and the poverty of the people prevent them from taking any such measures. The whole region from the Punjab to Bengal is malarious. Wherever there are railroads and *khas* in India there is malaria there. But what has Government done to prevent it? Does not the Government know what huge expenses are made by the Governments of Great Britain and of Italy for the purpose of stamping out ague and malaria from those countries? Does it not know what enormous expenses are being incurred by the East Indian Railway Company for establishing a village near the Bandel station? Does it know why such villages as have mills in them or can count upon rich men among their residents suffer less from malaria than other villages?

III.—LEGISLATION.

PALLIVASI,
July 6th, 1904.

54. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 6th July writes:—

The amendment of the Civil Procedure Code.

It is only when parties to suits are dissatisfied with the decisions of the Courts of first instance that they undergo the trouble and expense of an appeal to a higher Court. Government ought not therefore to put any obstacles in the way of appeals being preferred, merely because it is unwilling or unable to maintain an adequate number of appellate Courts. The difficulty may be done away with by the appointment of competent Judges, whose decisions could not be challenged by anybody. That it is impossible to get such decisions in the Courts of justice as at present constituted is well known. The first duty of Government is to remove this indelible stain on the Courts.

To reduce the number of appeals, the most important point is to see that people have faith in the decisions of the lower Courts. Even wilful perversion of justice does not make a Judge liable to punishment, nor does his incapacity expose him to the risk of losing his service. What is there then to prevent failures of justice? Section 444 provides that pleaders may be made to pay the costs. Why cannot a similar responsibility be put upon the Judge if it be proved that there was a departure from strict impartiality? Parties may be made to state the law and cite cases upon which they rely for the information of the Court. If any of these have not been attended to by the lower Court, the fact may be mentioned along with the grounds of appeal, and the lower Court may be called upon to show cause why the appeal should not be allowed. By these means much may be done to prevent failures of justice. The less the opportunity for the arbitrary exercise of power by the Court, the greater will be the chance of justice being done.

It may be objected that if lower Courts have to furnish explanations in every case of appeal, then much valuable time of the Courts will be spent in that work. But much saving of the Courts' time may be effected if attention be directed to the following points: (1) the lower Courts waste much time

in doing work which may be performed by the highest *amla* in the Court; (2) revision of cases under sections 108 and 628 necessitated by the remissness of the Court itself; (3) submission of a written statement containing the several points to be proved by each party, thereby preventing pleaders from putting irrelevant questions.

If all cases are made appealable, the appellate Court's time will no doubt be much encroached upon. But if the Judge's time is not taken up with unimportant cases, and if certificate and probate cases are made over to the lower Courts, much saving of time may be made. If this arrangement necessitates an increase in the number of lower Courts, what is the harm?

Section 551 is not at all necessary. Much useful time of the Court is wasted in deciding whether an appeal is allowable or not, and the appellant is also put to much unnecessary expenditure. All first appeals should be heard by the District Judge himself, as the errors of the lower Courts will then have the greatest chance of being corrected. The importance of a suit should not be determined by the sole test of the value of the claim. There are suits in which the value or amount of the claim is very small, but which involve points of the greatest complexity.

In order to economise the time of lower and appellate Courts, it is of very great importance to put an effective check upon the pleaders. They intentionally prefer groundless appeals and submit worthless rejoinders based upon flimsy pretexts and thereby waste much valuable time. The number of groundless appeals may thus be reduced. A wholesome control must also be exercised upon the Courts, otherwise great confusion would often be the consequence.

55. The same paper writes:—

Act XI of 1859.

Under the provisions of Act XI of 1859 Government has the power of realizing arrears of land revenue by selling by auction the property for which the revenue falls due. But the existing provisions for the issue of a notice ensuring the sale of the property at a fair price or making it possible for the owner of the property to prevent the sale by the payment of the arrears of revenue, together with the cost of the issue of the notice, cannot be regarded as sufficient. There are provisions no doubt for setting aside any sale if there have been serious irregularities in any respect, but in practice it is not at all easy to set aside any such sale. Modification of the law is therefore necessary to provide against this difficulty. When revenue for a mahal falls into arrears, various methods are adopted for issuing the proclamation of sale, but none of these can be regarded as sufficient for the information of the landlord, who often remains ignorant of the impending sale. Arrears of revenue are sometimes due to the neglect of the zamindar's *amla*, sometimes to the non-payment of the revenue by a co-sharer of the property, and sometimes to the errors of calculation in the Collectorate. It is very important that in these cases the zamindar should receive certain information of the arrears that he may take steps to save his property from sale. But it often happens that through want of timely information the whole property of a landlord is sold for an insignificant amount falling into arrears. If Government introduces the system of giving information of arrears of revenue to the landlords by means of registered letter post, a satisfactory solution of the difficulty may be arrived at. The cost of sending the notice by registered post may be realized from the owner of the property. By this arrangement Government will suffer no loss, while the landlord will be saved from ruin. By hanging up the notices in the Collector's Court or in the thana, no useful purpose is served, for nobody looks into those notices. The notices may also be published in local newspapers.

Co-sharers sometimes wilfully and from sinister motives allow revenue to fall into arrears. If from this cause any property is sold and if any of the co-sharers succeeds in setting aside the sale, the whole property should be given to him, on his paying the sale price of the property together with interest due thereon. For it would be manifestly unjust to require him to restore the shares of the remaining co-sharers to them after he had undergone all the trouble and expense necessary in having the sale set aside. Such a provision would bring the wicked co-sharers under control and prevent the

PALLIVASI,
July 6th, 1904.

revenue from falling into arrears. Government ought to see that well-meaning co-sharers may not have to suffer from the tyranny of the deceitful co-sharers.

In all cases of sale by auction, the sale may be set aside if the amount due, together with the cost, is paid within one month from the date of the sale. But Act XI of 1859 does not grant this privilege. As there is no want of purchasers in sales by auction, what harm can there be if the above system is introduced in revenue sales also?

KHULNA,
July 7th, 1904.

56. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 7th July says that a change is going to be made in the present Bengal Municipal Act which will greatly please the public. It is proposed to empower all first-class Magistrates, on the application of the residents of a locality, to remove women of evil repute from their midst. The writer has long advocated this change. The slightest inquiry will show that many public women live in the heart of the respectable quarter of Khulna town in the guise of maid-servants. Their songs and noises at night constitute a standing nuisance to the respectable people whose houses adjoin theirs. They serve as maid-servants at daytime and ply their trade at night. Under the new law it will be possible to remove these people elsewhere.

HITAVADI,
July 8th, 1904.

57. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th July observes as follows:—
When the right of interpellation in the Legislative Council was granted to the people of this country they thought highly of the boon. But the obstructive attitude of the officials stands in the way of their getting the full benefit of it. As a matter of fact, the number of popular representatives in the Bengal Legislative Council is being gradually reduced. When the Indian Councils Amendment Act of 1902 came into force, it was settled that there were to be six independent members in the Bengal Council. The mufassal municipalities returned two of these. Under present arrangements they return only one. The other seat has been given to the zamindars. But the zamindars had the right to return a member before this, although it was held in abeyance. Thus by a trick Government has added to the number of its own nominees on the Council.

Then, again, the members to be returned in future by the reconstituted Calcutta Municipality and University can have no claim to be called popular representatives. Only Government officials or their out-and-out supporters will now have a chance of being returned by these bodies. And as to the seats held by the District Boards, they are as good as Government seats. For these Boards practically act at the bidding of the local Magistrates. The only shred of independence left remains with the municipalities, but the authorities have taken away one of their representatives. The Council has recently practically ceased to meet. Few sittings are held in the course of the year now-a-days, and of course the members cannot interpellate unless the Council is in session. For all these reasons, the prospect of any good from the Legislative Council is daily getting more and more remote.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

JYOTI,
July 7th, 1904.

58. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th July, in announcing that the Bara Thakur has been ordered by Government to quit Agartala at once, expresses its surprise that Government should be perpetrating such a grave piece of oppression. The Bara Thakur for twenty-five years has been enjoying the dignity of a Yuvaraj. Now suddenly the old custom is upset and he is supplanted by the son of the reigning Maharaja. He has filed a civil suit for the restitution of his rights. This is all his offence. Government should be on the side of justice; it should not take any side as its own in this dispute. The present attitude of Government is such that the judges who work with an eye to their own interests will decide against the Bara Thakur. Of course the British Government is all-powerful and can do as it wills. Our native princes stand in awe even of the European Magistrates, who are among the Government's humblest representatives. But a single instance of oppression cuts like a knife into the heart of the people.

59. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th July observes that the brother of the Maharaja of Tippera, known as the Bara Thakur, was nominated by the late Maharaja as the future heir. This was in accordance with the

The question of the Tippera succession.

immemorial custom of the family. But the Government of India, setting aside the claims of the Bara Thakur, have decided that the son of the reigning Maharaja is to be regarded as the heir. The Bara Thakur, dissatisfied with the decision of Government, has filed a suit in the Civil Court for the restitution of the rights he was entitled to by the family custom. This has greatly displeased the authorities. It is said that the Bara Thakur has been served with a notice to quit Agartala, the capital of the State. It is said that he must not even wait till the approaching visit of the Lieutenant-Governor. One hesitates to believe that the liberal British Government will earn infamy by such unjust oppression of an individual. If the Bara Thakur has a strong case let him regain his rights by the help of the Courts. There is no reason for Government to be annoyed at it.

HITAVADI,
July 8th, 1904.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

60. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th July hears that Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, the late Commissioner of the Dacca Division, has accepted the offer of the post of Manager of the Nawab of Dacca's estates. If retired civilians

The appointment of Mr. Luttmann-Johnson as manager of the Nawab of Dacca's estates.

are permitted to be appointed as managers of zamindars, there will be no end of oppressions upon the tenants and the public. In appointing European Managers to the exclusion of qualified Indians, the object of the zamindars must be to intimidate the tenantry. The writer hopes that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will not sanction this appointment.

SANJIVANI,
July 7th, 1904.

61. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th July regrets to report differences in connection with the disposal of the surplus of the Coronation Festivities Fund at Jhenida. It appears that the Magistrate then in office consulted the local public and decided in favour of the

Disposal of the surplus of the Coronation Festivities Fund at Jhenida.

proposal for the excavation of a good tank. The present Magistrate, however, is bent on having a hospital with the money. The unofficial members of the Local Board strongly objected to the new proposal. But as the Magistrate commands a majority he has carried his pet point. Just now Government itself is trying to improve the sources of water-supply in the villages; and here is one of Government's own high officers thwarting the execution of one of such projects. What can be more regrettable?

HITAVADI,
July 8th, 1904.

62. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 11th July has the following in its English columns:—

A new line of action for the Indians.

The counsel given by Mr. Naoroji from England and re-echoed by Mr. Choudhury at the last

Provincial Conference, viz., that we should now cease to expect any far-reaching good results accruing from pure and simple political agitation alone in India or England and must fall back upon other means for our salvation, political and social, is one which must find an echo in the mind of every Indian who has studied the trend of modern political thought in England, and the boldly aggressive and defiant policy pursued by the bureaucracy of India so far as educated Indians are concerned. From the latter we cannot expect anything particularly good, for it would be the height of folly for a subject race to expect such a strong and well organized body, with its long traditions of unfettered and irresponsible domination, its impatience of criticism and control, its ludicrously exaggerated notions about its supposed excellence and infallibility and its contempt for others—it would be folly to expect such a body to sacrifice any of its rights or privileges in order to raise the political status of the natives. With England it was thought to be otherwise. We always cherished a hope that if our grievances could be clearly and forcibly laid before Englishmen at home, their traditional sense of justice would at once revolt against the selfish and short-sighted policy pursued here by a section of their countrymen. Then would the millenium come and the emancipation of India from her present miserable bondage would be the necessary result of the righteous indignation excited in the mind of the

DACCA GAZETTE,
July 11th, 1904.

Britisher by the tales of our misery. But as fate would have it, we are doomed to disappointment. We ought to have known that the Burkes, the Foxes, the Sheridans, the Wilberforces and the Howards, whom England was once so fertile in and whose devotion, zeal and self-sacrifice in the cause of justice, righteousness, and philanthropy have added to the glory and greatness of the British name even more than her great victories on land or sea—we ought to have known that that noble race of Englishmen has left only a very few worthy successors behind. In their place we do not unoften find the Chamberlains, the Milners and Co. with all their swelled notions of Imperialism and their inexorably selfish policy tending to work ruthlessly towards the destruction of weaker communities and reduction to abject condition of dependencies which have been slowly and fondly looking forward to a better state of things. With the Jingo-fever running so high in England and the great organs of British public opinion egging the nation on to a career of unceasing aggression and self-aggrandizement, the only statesmen, who can expect to command the applause of the British public now-a-days are those of the type referred to above, who will never allow their policy of aggression and shameless self-seeking to be checked by any altruistic consideration, and who will never scruple to trample on the rights and privileges of people who have not the good fortune to belong to the ruling race. With the once great and glorious British nation fallen so low from its former moral height, it would be idle for us to expect any salvation from England. Our disillusionment is now complete, and we must know that if we are to be saved at all, it must be mostly by our own efforts.

Judging from past experience, we must say, we are not very hopeful of success in our political agitations unless we can prove our capacity and worth in some tangible way. Common fairness demands that we must give proof of our worth before we can expect any concession from our rulers in the matter of political rights and privileges. In short, to our thinking, political agitation and industrial developments must go hand in hand, and we need hardly say, for the achievement of the latter, we must depend more upon ourselves than upon the Government. It is foolishness to expect our rulers to do anything and everything for us. Heaven helps those who help themselves, and so long as we do not learn the value of self-help, we must give up all hopes of the political regeneration of this once great and now fallen country. Taking this view of the question, we feel disposed to frankly own that we are more to blame than our rulers for our present degraded position as a nation. So long as we do not move ourselves, we have no right to find fault with the rulers, because they have not dragged us along with them in their onward journey to wealth and prosperity.

We are glad that our leaders have at last found it out, and now that the disease has been truly diagnosed, we have no doubt remedy will be shortly forthcoming on the lines of industrial development which is the only panacea for all the ills the country is suffering from.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
June 22nd, 1904.

63. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 22nd June compares Mr. Egerton, Collector of Balasore, with Mr. Blackwood, Collector of Puri, and arrives at the conclusion that both are benevolent, sympathetic and kind-hearted. They are two illustrious members of the Indian Civil Service.

Messrs. Egerton and Blackwood,
Collectors of Balasore and Puri,
respectively.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

64. Referring to the proposed appointment of one Deputy Inspector and two Sub-Inspectors of schools for the Tributary States of Orissa, the same paper requests Mr. Growse, Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, and Mr. Stark, Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, to appoint three competent natives of Orissa to the new posts. The writer explains that a native of Orissa includes a domiciled Bengali, Hindustani, Telegu or a Mahratta, and regrets that the claims of such domiciled Uriyas have been disregarded for a certain number of years.

New educational appointments
for the Orissa Tributary States.

- The rainfall. 65. The same paper states that there was plenty of rain in the Balasore district in the last week. URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.
- The water-supply circular. 66. The same paper commends the action of the Government in issuing the water-supply circular, but is of opinion that the statement in the circular that every village in Bengal has a sufficient quantity of water available for its use all the year round is incorrect. URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.
- The celebration of the Emperor's birthday in Balasore. 67. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 30th June states that Babus Rajnarayan Das, Radhacharan Das and Radha Gobinda Das, zamindars of Balasore, observed the Birthday of the King-Emperor in due form and solemnity. There were nautches and music in honour of the day. About 600 girls formed a picnic party in the afternoon. There were other amusements on the local parade ground. Uriya verses, written in honour of the day, are published in the columns of the paper. SAMVAD VAHIKA, June 30th, 1904.
- The rainfall. 68. The same paper states that there was plenty of rain in the last week. SAMVAD VAHIKA.
- The Utkal Young Men's Association at Cuttack. 69. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd July says that an association named the *Utkal Young Men's Association* has been established in Cuttack, its object being to develop the body and mind of school and college students by arranging for extra lectures and by providing for extra games. The Principal of the Ravenshaw College has been appointed President of the Association with two Vice-Presidents, one Secretary, one Assistant Secretary and one Executive Committee to help him. UTKALDIPIKA, July 2nd, 1904.
- The Raja of Athgarh's love of learning. 70. A correspondent of the same paper states that the Raja of Athgarh is studying Sanskrit Nyaya (Logic) under the guidance and with the help of Pandit Sirkar Sastri of Benares, who is now in that State. The Raja is a Sanskrit scholar and lover of Sanskrit learning. He is also helping the Brahmins of Radhanathpur Sasan in Athgarh to learn that ancient and sacred language. UTKALDIPIKA.
- Contributions to the Utkal Sahitya Samaj. 71. The same paper is glad to find that the Rajas of Khalikote and Dharakote have contributed about Rs. 170 towards the funds of the Utkal Sahitya Samaj, Cuttack, an Association formed for the cultivation and improvement of the Uriya language. UTKALDIPIKA.
- The rainfall. 72. The same paper states that there was plenty of rain in the last week. There being rain every day, the sowing of paddy has been much impeded. UTKALDIPIKA.
- The weather. 73. According to the same paper the temperature is low and the air is cool. This change of weather is responsible for an outbreak of fever and cough in Cuttack town. UTKALDIPIKA.
- The Provincial Conference at Burdwan. 74. The same paper gives a summary of the proceedings of the Provincial Conference that was held at Burdwan in the last month. The paper is glad that the members of the Conference have at last found out that it is more profitable to attend to agriculture, industry, sciences and arts than to politics. UTKALDIPIKA.
- The Mansingpatna dacoity case. 75. Referring to the Mansingpatna dacoity case which was tried and disposed of by the District Sessions Judge, Cuttack, the same paper makes certain sensational revelations and attempts to show that the real offenders were at large, while some innocent men were hauled up before the Court and sentenced to different terms of imprisonment. Government has, however, released three such innocent men. The writer thanks Government for this act of justice, though performed tardily, and hopes that the conduct of the District Superintendent of Police, the Inspector of Police, and the Sub-Inspector of Police concerned in the investigation of the case will be taken into consideration, for he thinks that to concoct evidence for the conviction of innocent men and to send innocent men to the gallows to secure departmental

promotion or the good opinion of official superiors are in themselves heinous offences. The writer concludes by suggesting that if the official career of one of the above police officials were scrutinised, not only in reference to this particular case, but in reference to a series of other cases in the Cuttack district, it would be found out that the innocent public have suffered long under a demoralised police rule.

UTKALDIPKA.

76. The same paper states that the *Snan Jatra* in Puri passed off quietly and punctually to the satisfaction of the pilgrims and devotees, of whom about 15,000 were present in the Puri town. As most of them left the station

The last Snan Jatra festival at Puri.

after a few hours' stay, the lodging-house keepers could make but little money, and were therefore very much disappointed.

UTKALDIPKA.

77. The same paper thanks Mr. Growse, Commissioner of Orissa Division, on behalf of the public for an act of clemency and justice shown in re-instating Babu Jagatbal-

The Orissa Commissioner's clemency to a distinguished kanungo.

labh Das, kanungo of the Cuttack Chakla, in his

post from which he had been dismissed by an order of the Cuttack Collector based on the report of a Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Balmukunda kanungo. The writer states that the public are satisfied with the revisional order of the Commissioner, and enquires who will bear the additional cost thus incurred by an unjust order of the Cuttack Collector.

UTKALDIPKA.

78. The same paper regrets that on the report of the Vaccination Sub-Inspector, Babu Mangobind Mahapatra, Babu Gobindchandra Das, the well-known zamindar of

A vaccination case.

Benahar, was criminally prosecuted for the alleged offence of inoculating his children against the Vaccination Law. The case has been dismissed by Mr. Godfrey for want of evidence. Babu Gobindchandra was compelled to bring his three children, the youngest only two years old and the eldest only six years old, from Benahar to Cuttack, and to undergo much expense in order to establish his innocence. The writer suggests that the zamindar should now demand damages for all his troubles.

UTKALDIPKA.

79. The same paper supports the proposal of its Gangpur correspondent to

The proposal to make Uriya the Court language in the Gangpur Tributary State in the Chota Nagpur Division.

introduce Uriya into the offices of the Gangpur State, which is a Feudatory State attached to the Chota Nagpur Division and whose people speak the Uriya language. The writer considers it

strange that Hindi in Kaithi character should be the Court language of a people, who know Uriya only. It is true that Uriya is taught in the schools of Gangpur, but as that language has no place in the Courts of that State, it loses its utility and importance in the eyes of the people. The writer has every hope that if the matter be put in proper form before the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Honour will no doubt view the subject in a favourable light, for it was he who while Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces introduced Uriya into the Courts of the Sambalpur district and its attached Feudatory States.

UTKALDIPKA.

80. Referring to the list of honours, conferred on gentlemen and nobles on the King-Emperor's Birthday, the same paper regrets that Orissa has no place in the list.

The Birthday honours.

UTKALDIPKA.

81. The same paper states that the *Kathjuri* has been swollen and rendered impassable except by ferry-boats for the past two weeks, but the ferry arrangements have been most unsatisfactory. The Chairman of the Cuttack

The Kathjuri ferry at Cuttack.

Municipality deputed his Overseer to inspect the condition of the Mundmuhan Ghât, and the latter reported that about 200 passengers were waiting in vain in that ghât for the ferry-boat. The Chairman himself paid a visit to the spot. As the inconveniences noted above are not yet removed, the writer again draws the attention of the Chairman to the same. It is stated that in some ghâts there are no boats at all. On Thursday last about seven or eight passengers finding no ferry-boat available placed themselves on a country canoe in company with a postal runner, but the canoe was upset and the passengers thrown into the river. It is not yet known how many have been saved. The *majhis* attached to each ferry-boat are under-paid, and they therefore remunerate themselves by blackmailing the passengers in the name of *baksis*.

This is proved by the investigations made by the Municipal officers, for they found that two *majhis* were attached to each boat and were paid each at the rate of one rupee per month. This is oppression, and the *Ijaradar* is responsible for it. It is the duty of the Municipal Commissioners to remove the grievance of the public without any more delay. The *Kuakhai* Ghât has also been leased to the same *Ijaradar* by the District Board, and as passengers are also inconvenienced in that ghât, it is the duty of the Board to attend to the matter at once. The *Thinkiria* Ghât of the same river fares no better. The *Ijaradar* Sonopal obtained the lease of several ghâts for many years and in each year there was complaint against his management. Waiting in the open ferry ghâts for several hours or days in the rainy weather means untold misery to the intending passengers, and it is the duty of the authorities to remove their complaints.

82. The *Garjatbasini* of the 2nd July states that there was rain every day in Talcher in the last week, and all the rivers in that State, including the Brahmini, have overflowed. This has interfered much with the sowing operations in connection with the cultivation of paddy.

GARJATBASINI,
July 2nd, 1904.

83. The same paper thanks the Deputy Commissioner of Angul for his care and diligence in supplying the people of that State with good water. He has caused large and useful tanks to be excavated in different parts of the State. The excavation of a few more tanks will protect Angul against the water-scarcity that prevails in the State every summer.

GARJATBASINI.

84. Correspondents of the same paper state that there was plenty of rain in that State in the last week, and that too much rain has interfered with the cultivation of paddy.

GARJATBASINI.

85. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 29th June requests the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj to grant a sum sufficient to enable Hem Chandra Ghosal to prosecute his studies in some industrial school in Japan, as Hem Chandra, now a student of the Puri Zilla School, has shown special aptitude for the study of practical arts.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
June 29th, 1904.

86. The same paper recommends the services of Babu Trailokyanath Dutt, the Sub-Inspector of Police, Balasore sadar thana, in connection with the Sasang dacoity case, to the favourable notice of the authorities.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

87. Babu Shivanarayan Naik, a correspondent of the same paper, tries to make out in a long article that the spread of English education in Orissa is dealing a death-blow to the cultivation of the Uriya language, and this is not at all desirable.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

88. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th July states that there was rain almost every day in the last week. The Jajpur correspondent of the paper says that owing to heavy rains and floods in the rivers, young paddy plants were either washed away or rotten, and that in some places sowing was stopped.

UTKALDIPIKA,
July 9th, 1904.

89. The same paper thanks Mr. Growse, Commissioner of the Orissa Division, for his active sympathy with the aims and objects of the Utkal Young Men's Association, and hopes that he will occasionally attend its meetings, thereby shaping the conduct and guiding the movements of the members. Mr. Growse is described as a sympathetic and God-fearing gentleman, whose administration of Orissa will no doubt prove beneficial to the people of that Province.

UTKALDIPIKA.

90. The same paper does not agree with the *Uriya and Navasamvad* in the latter's estimate of the character of Mr. Egerton, the Collector of Balasore, who has been described by the latter to be as good and sympathetic a Collector as Mr. Blackwood, the Collector of Puri, and observes that the irregularities of Mr. Egerton have been the subject of comment in the High Court in a case in which the rule issued by that Court was made absolute against Mr. Egerton.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPKA.

91. The same paper supports the correspondent of the *Prajabandhu* in his statement that the big tank, named Durgagund, in Bahukud in the Cuttack district, needs immediate repairs. The tank is surrounded by five important villages, whose residents draw water from it. It is owned by a rich Hindu lady, whose father, Babu Jagatballabh Ghose, is the executor of the property. Under these circumstances, the writer hopes that Babu Jagatballabh will pay immediate attention to the condition of the tank.

UTKALDIPKA.

92. The authorities of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School having refused to admit 29 students, who were plucked in the last Entrance Examination, into the school on the ground that the school building being out of repairs there is no accommodation for more than 50 boys, the same paper points out that a notice to this effect should have been given beforehand. It is not fair to refuse admittance to the students when other students are being taken in and when rented houses are available in the town for school purposes.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
July 6th, 1904.

The Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians.

93. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th July has every sympathy with the object of the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians which is being established in every district of Bengal, and hopes that one will be established in the Balasore district ere long.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

94. The same paper regrets that uninterrupted rains have interfered very much with the sowing of paddy in the Balasore district. In some places young paddy plants have either been washed away or rotten, while in other places attempts are being made to transplant seedlings reared in distant localities.

It is stated on the authority of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bankura] that the cultivators of paddy in that district have been so unfortunate as to lose all their seeds that, remaining long under water, could not germinate. They find it now very difficult to procure fresh seeds.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

95. The same paper regrets that the gentlemen and nobles in Orissa were so unfortunate as not to find a single place in the list of honours distributed on the King-Emperor's birthday in June last.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
July 7th, 1904.

The prospect of cultivation in Balasore.

96. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 7th July regrets to learn that there are many fields in Balasore on which the cultivators have not been able to sow paddy owing to a large volume of water resting on them. Paddy seeds sown in many fields are either rotten or destroyed. This has greatly alarmed the agriculturists.

GARJATBASINI,
July 9th, 1904.

The prospect of cultivation in Talcher.

97. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 9th July states that a similar mishap has overtaken the agricultural community in that State. The cultivators of paddy are now busy in rearing seedlings in dry places, whereby they hope to make their paddy fields productive to a certain extent.

GARJATBASINI.

98. The same paper is of opinion that Uriya should be the Court-language of men residing in Gangpur, a Feudatory State in the Chota Nagpur Division, and hopes that the Raja and people of that State will submit a representation to Government on the subject.

GARJATBASINI.

99. The same paper supports the proposal to remove the head-quarters of the Pallahara State from the present locality, which is a very unhealthy one, to a more suitable and healthy site in that State, and suggests that mauza Khamar on the bank of the river Brahmini should be selected for the purpose.

GARJATBASINI.

100. The Raja of Talcher having promulgated an order to kill wild and stray dogs in the Talcher town, the same paper supports the order.

The killing of wild dogs in the Talcher State.

ASSAM PAPERS.

101. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 30th June complains of great mismanagement in the work of disbursing salaries among the teachers of the *pathsalas* under the Karimganj Local Board in the Sylhet district.

Disbursement of salaries among *gurus* in the Sylhet district.

The salary payable to one is sent to another. Sometimes a *guru* would not receive his salary for months together, and so on.

PARIDARSAK,
June 30th, 1904.

102. The same paper speaks of the prevalence of *budmashi* in the Chhayabarhi village of the Jafargarh pargana in the Sylhet district. Cannot the *budmashes* be checked? The village chaukidar's time is divided between realising the chaukidari-tax and regularly attending the thana. He does nothing else.

Budmashi in a village in the Sylhet district.

PARIDARSAK.

A correspondent of the same paper says that although *Saral Parimeti Siksha* by Mathuranath Chaudhuri is the authorised text-book for the *pathsalas* in the Sylhet district, yet Padma Nath Babu compels students to buy and read a more costly and difficult book named *Laghu Parimiti*.

PARIDARSAK.

103. The same paper complains of the extremely bad condition of the Habiganj-Muchhikandi road. A light shower of rain would cause an accumulation of knee-deep water in it. It is, besides, so muddy that it is impossible for people even to walk on it barefooted. Formerly there was a drainage culvert midway between the villages Charhamna and Sudiakhala for the purpose of draining off the overflow of the Kheoaia river. But this culvert was closed a few years ago. This has not only been the cause of the bad condition of the above road, but also of the ill-health of the surrounding villages. Either the above culvert should be reopened or an embankment should be raised along the river from Saistaganj to Rangargan.

A bad road in the Sylhet district.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 16th July 1904.

